

Mabeel Ali

MODERN ART FROM BAGHDAD

By Judith Wenning





A modern approach to painting with an expressive, vivid and exuberant style is typical for Nabeel Ali. His artwork is easily recognizable. His paintings carry his signature style – a modern blend of classic elements. Strong, vibrant colors and self-assured pencil strokes determine his works. Nabeel Ali's paintings excel through great composition.

Nabeel Ali was born in Baghdad, Iraq in 1980, where he also grew up. Today he lives with his wife in his home town Baghdad. Nabeel Ali went through an excellent art education. He has a diploma of the Fine Arts Institute of Baghdad (founded in 1936) and a BA of the Fine Arts College of Baghdad (established 1958 and now linked to the University of Baghdad). Today Nabeel Ali is a professor of colors and drawing at the Fine Arts College in Baghdad.



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Already as a little boy, he very much enjoyed painting Arabian horses. "Since my childhood I was fascinated by Arabian horses and their knights. I was so mesmerized by these fantastic animals", Nabeel Ali remembers. "I always loved to draw them spontaneously." Then he adds: "Everything about Arabian horses is enthralling for me – starting from their beauty and their exterior to the fun of drawing them. I am very inspired by Arabians as soon as I touch the painting brush. They give me positive energy and power when I draw them."



Today among his most favorite subjects are Arabian horses, but Nabeel Ali loves also to immortalize important mosques, people, animals (for example pigeons) and flowers. Nabeel Ali works not only in his studio but likes also to do paintings outside, taking inspiration from his surroundings. He often works in mixed media, oil or in acrylics on canvas, sometimes in watercolor. Some of his paintings are very large sized. The Arabian horses pictured by Nabeel Ali are very expressive with unmistakable type and gorgeous heads. Nabeel Ali loves animals, first of all of course horses, but also for example cats.

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He is very active on social media and runs a very popular Instagram account with more than 10.000 followers. He regularly posts photos of his impressive artwork. On this account he shares also short videos showing him while painting – a truly fascinating sight.



Nabeel Ali is a hard-working, diligent artist and has already produced numerous works of art. Previously he had several individual exhibitions. His first personal exhibition for example was in Amman, Jordan in 2017. A second personal exhibition was held in Egypt at the Al-Kahila Hall for Arts in 2018. Moreover, he participated in numerous exhibitions in his homeland Iraq. His works are very popular internationally and were sold to Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Dubai, Egypt, the US, Great Britain, Canada etc. Today Nabeel Ali is a member of the “Iraqi Artists’ Syndicate”, “Iraq Plastic Artists” and of “Modern Academy Society”.





"I get my inspiration for Arabian horse paintings from social media and direct watching", Nabeel Ali explains. "In the past, I visited also several Arabian horse farms which I very much enjoyed."

Asked about his plans for the future, Nabeel Ali ponders and replies with a smile: "My dream is to have a big studio for my work and also to have a horse farm of my own. My further plans are to further specialize in drawing and painting horses." Then he adds: "It would be wonderful to have my work displayed in world-class galleries in the future."





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